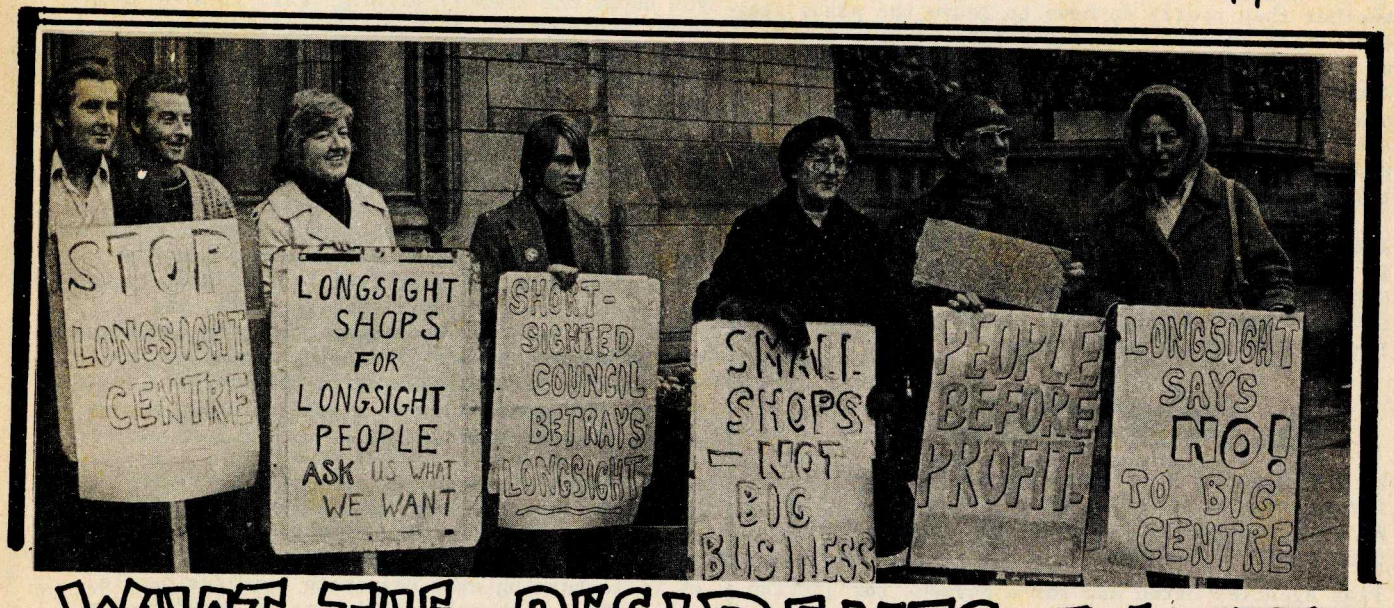
LONGSIGHT NEWS.

No. 7 Nov - Dec 75. 4p


STOP LONGSIGHT CENTRE
LONGSIGHT SHOPS FOR LONGSIGHT PEOPLE ASK US WHAT WE WANT
SHORT-SIGHTED COUNCIL BETRAYS LONGSIGHT
SMALL SHOPS - NOT BIG BUSINESS
PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT
LONGSIGHT SAYS NO! TO BIG CENTRE

WHAT THE RESIDENTS WANT
- SOMETHING BETTER THAN A DISTRICT CENTRE

1ST NOV 75

Residents of Longsight and Levenshulme and representa tives of residents groups in these areas have had a part in slowing up permission being given to the London proprty firm JLG Investments to build a block of offices, flats and shops at Stanley Grove.

The greatest evidence that this District Centre isn't what Longsight needs came from the 350 or so residents who packed St Johns school hall on Oct 8th. Time and again they shouted No to the centre and protested when they weren't allowed to vote it right out.

Faced with such opposition and also because many of the councillors on the Planning Committee (both Labour and Tory) think District Centres are a bad idea (eg Moss Side), the committee withheld permission for a second month running. J L Godfrey the investor tried, as one councillor put it "To put a pistol to our heads" by letting it be known via Mr Eaton that he might pull out before the end of October if the committee refused permission. The councillors ignored this threat.

What do the residents want? The Longsight District Centre Group is carrying out opinion surveys in different parts of Longsight and they are finding that people want more of the old independent shops back on Stockport Rd. The Anson Estate needs shops, so does the new estate; so too Hathersage Rd and the east side of Longsight - SOMETHING BETTER THAN A DISTRICT CENTRE.

GORTON & LEVENSHULME TO SUFFER

The Greater Manchester Council (GMC), responsible for overall planning is confident that if the Longsight District Centre were built

a) Gorton would have to lose Phase 2 of its District Shopping Centre (i.e. about 30 new shops)

b) shops in Levenshulme would be affected

c) in Longsightwe would have to lose the equivalent of 20 small existing shops.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

One shopper said "You know what happens. The planners have made up their minds" But it IS important that people give their views now, on the kind of shops needed and where.

If you like to write, write to the Evening News, the East Manchester Reporter, and Longsight News.

If you like to do interviewing or leafletting or just listening go along to meetings of the Longsight District Centre Group, usually on Wednesdays 7.45pm at 113 Hamilton Rd. The more the merrier.

You could tell the chairperson of the Planning Committee, Mr Broderick, what shops are needed in your neighbourhood. His address is 12c Finney Drive, M/c 21, phone 881 4495. Other councillors on this committee are George Taylor, Sonia Alexander, Collins, Grainger, Eastham, Brierley.

SEE MIDDLE PAGES →

THE KIND OF ADVICE WE GIVE at 113 HAMILTON RD

Anybody who doesn't believe that there is a great shortage of available housing should try sitting in the advice office for a week. Most of the calls are about unsatisfactory houses or are from homeless people looking for accommodation.

We always have to explain that we are not an accommodation agency. First we try to find out whether they really do have to leave the place they are living in now. Then for single working men we can suggest a few addresses.
There is nothing for families with children who are homeless, they may have lived in a clearance area but not be entitled to rehousing or were unprotected tenants living in the same house as the landlord.

ARE THERE ANY PEOPLE READING THIS WHO WOULD LIKE TO TAKE LODGERS OR LET OUT SPARE ROOMS ? WE WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU - AND CAN GIVE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AS A LANDLADY OR LANDLORD.

A FEW TIPS

We have learned a few tips for people looking for accommodation which which you might like to know in case you or a friend are ever in this unfortunate situation.

Flat Agencies often ask for a payment for putting you on their lists, or money for a key. It is illegal to charge money except for actually finding a flat, and any deposit on a key is returnable.

Also if the flats they offer you seem to be rather high rent, remember you can apply for a rent rebate as soon as you move in.

LANCE (phone 881 0442 during office hours) specializes in helping single homeless people to find lodgings and flats. They have lists of landlords and sometimes help couples too.

CITY CENTRE PROJECT helps young homeless people. They're open 7 days a week between 6.30pm - 9.30pm. 3rd floor, 14 Piccadilly, (on London Rd). Tel 228-1674

NIGHT SHELTER - anybody actually on the street with nowhere to go is welcome at the shelter in Harkness St, Ardwick - near the old St Aloysius's School

ASHTON HOUSE - the Housing Dept's hostel for women. 60p a night for a bed. It's in Corporation Street. 834 2978

WALTON HOUSE -the Housing Dept's hostel for men. 60p a night for bed. In Harrison St off Pollard St, Ancoats. 273 2987

SALVATION ARMY - £12.25 per week in Francis St. Slightly less in Chepstow St.

HOMELESS FAMILIES UNIT - this is a department of the Town Hall which is responsible for helping all Manchester homeless families. Before a family becomes homeless they should go and see them and if they can last a few weeks in bed & breakfast then they will get some sort of a flat at the end of it.

Chorlton St Bus Station
Open 8.45 - 4.15 Mon Fri,
11.30 - 4.15 Tues Wed Thurs.
Phone 236 3377 extension 2360

HOUSING AID CENTRE, Town Hall Extension, Mount St has lists of estate agents you can try and will advise you about the council waiting list. If they cannot offer you anywhere they will sometimes pass you to a housing association.
Housing Aid also help with any other housing problems.

SQUATTING. In spite of the fact that we have been accused of helping people to squat this is not our policy. Nowadays the council insist on evicting all squatters, although they will have to rehouse any family which goes to the Homeless Families Unit afterwards. So most families are advised to go straight to this unit (Chorlton St). The council do not even recognise that some squatters have prevented houses from being vandalised and are usually using houses which the council bureaucracy would not get around to using for months or even years.

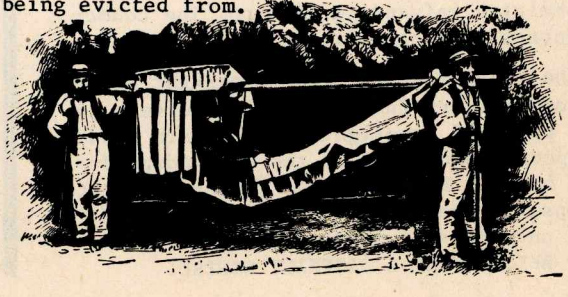
Homelessness is a scandal: 10 empty flats or houses for every 1 homeless family. We at the Neighbourhood Advice Centretry to help people in need whoever they are and the hardest part of it is turning away desperate homeless people, saying "Sorry there's nothing to be done" - when everyone knows how many empty houses there are round here.

DEATH IN HULME

Another family now facing eviction from the Anson Estate used to live in one of the notorius crescents in Hulme where a little boy died recently after falling off a balcony.
They were afraid for their childrens safety and moved into an empty Corporation house even though the Housing Committee have promised to rehouse all families with children from the crescents. Its easy to say they jumped the waiting list but is it just as easy to say that if you were in their position, scared for your childrens lives, you wouldn't do the same thing ?

LIVING APART

Another family who came to us were living apart with parents in grossly overcrowded conditions. The council couldn't help them and they moved into a flat in Heywood House that would have been boarded up. They are now being evicted and their only hope will be the Homeless Families Unit. This may find them somewhere, probably in a similiar block of flats to the one they're being evicted from.



from the LONGSIGHT TENANTS ASSOCIATION,
secretary Dave Shaw, 4 Mull Ave.

A LEAK IS NOT A LEAK IF ITS A DRIP!

"A BURST IS NOT AN EMERGENCY. IT IS AN INCONVENIENCE...."

- just 2 of the answers provided by Mr Wilson, Director of M/c Corporation Direct Works Dept at a meeting held to put forward complaints to representatives of M/c Corporation Housing Dept, represented by Mr Gridley and others, and as stated other members of Direct Works etc. The meeting was at Longsight Tenants Association's meeting place, the Ukranian Club, Plymouth Grove West, and was chaired by Mrs Ruth Sharratt, treasurer of the Longsight Tenants Association, on Thursday evening 25th Sept. at 7.30pm.

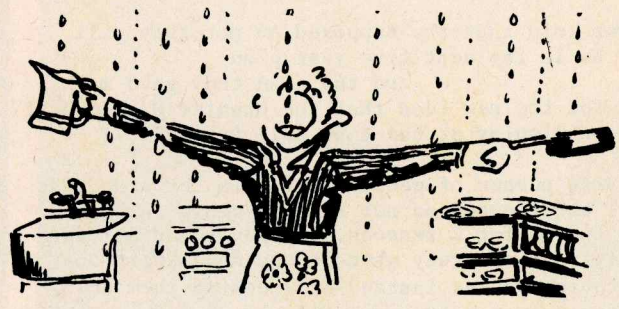
Mr David Josephs, an heating and electronics consultant from Nottingham, opened by giving his report and extracts from a Swiss firm of consultants and manufacturers of appliances (a firm of world-wide repute who are consultants to governments and international companies) - Salzer Bros. of Switzerland. In their report they say that Clorius meters are 30% innaccurate.

Mr Pat Paget, deputy chairman of the Housing Committee, interposed by saying that our representative (Mr Josephs) and the Longsight Tenants Ass should make a written report to be put before the Housing Committee for their own technical advisers to study before:
(a) another meeting could be arranged between us to discuss this problem,
(b) and perhaps for the housing committee to consider whether or not to withdraw all Clorius meters.

This report is now being prepared by us.

Another question put by Dave Shaw, secretary of Longsight Tenants Ass., was why are the Clorius devices measurement scales not related to the British Standards thermal units (This is the accepted way in the British Isles of heat measurement). And why the devices themselves are not British Standards Institute certificated. Nor have they ever applied to be certificated. Also, is it not a fact that the chemical contained in these appliances is listed in "Sachs" register of hazardous chemicals "industrial" as "HIGHLY TOXIC IF INGESTED (swallowed) OR INHALED ON ONE SINGLE OCCASION OR IN SMALL AMOUNTS". Mr Pat Paget said that "All these and other relevant points would be noted"

In the meantime....another tenant on the estate a Mrs Davies of no.14 Mull Ave, Longsight, was affected by the chemical contained in one of the Clorius devices in her home when, due to the fact that it was incorrectly fitted, the device spilled out the chemical over the hot radiator, causing the already toxic chemical to become even more active with the heat from the radiator. So Mrs Davies went to her own doctor as soon as was possible. Her doctor, on learning



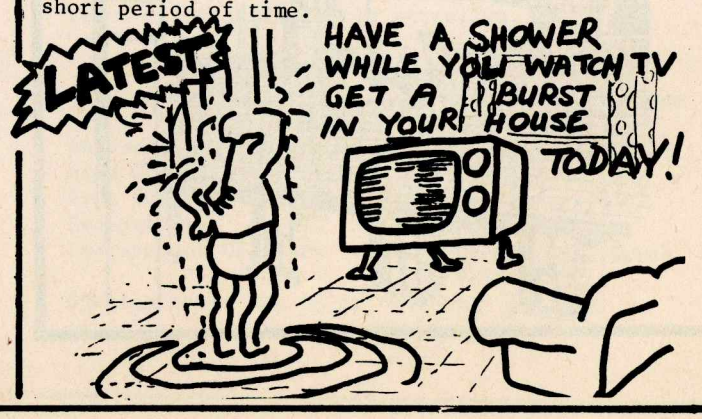
that the contents were in fact listed as dangerous, sent her to hospital where she was attended to. Apart from chest pains Mrs Davies was fortunately not too seriously affected on this occasion.

Are we to wait until perhaps some invalid or small child who cannot help themselves are very badly affected?????????????
This is the question that each and every one of us, including the councillors who are our representatives, must now ask.....

A burst is just a bit of bother

A heating pipe in a loft in Kingfisher Close burst at 4am one morning recently. The water flooded the top flat and got through to the flat beneath. The electric wiring was wet. As there is no all-night emergency town hall service for the central heating pipes on the new estate, the tenants called the police, who called in the waterworks who cut the water and electricity off

Tenants complain that they are protected only between the hours of 9am and 4pm when the fitters from Direct Works come out on jobs, and again from 7 or 8pm to 11.30pm when the emergency service appears to operate. Tenants want a 24-hour emergency service because of the danger of very hot water coming through the ceilings and injuring the disabled or babies in bed, or ruining a flat and all its furniture and floorcoverings if the water isn't stopped within a short period of time.



NEW A6 NOT FOR 5 YEARS

Many people have enquired about the route of the A6 Motorway and also which of the several plans proposed is going to be used and mainly and most important WHEN; well, after getting in touch with a number of people, I finally got an answer and a plan for the A6 was sent.

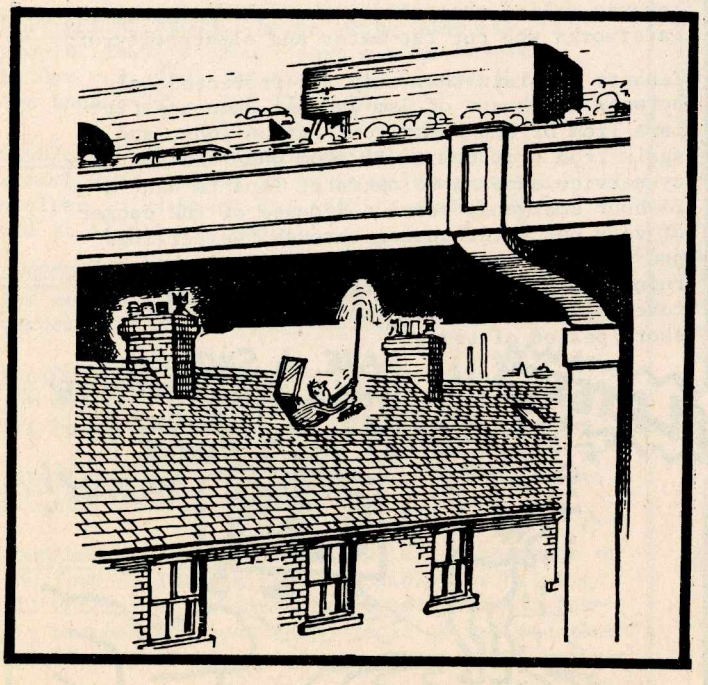
I was told that the supposed A6 motorway will NOT be in the next five year plan and the plan they gave me was for the new idea that the Greater M/c Council had on display at the town hall in April 74

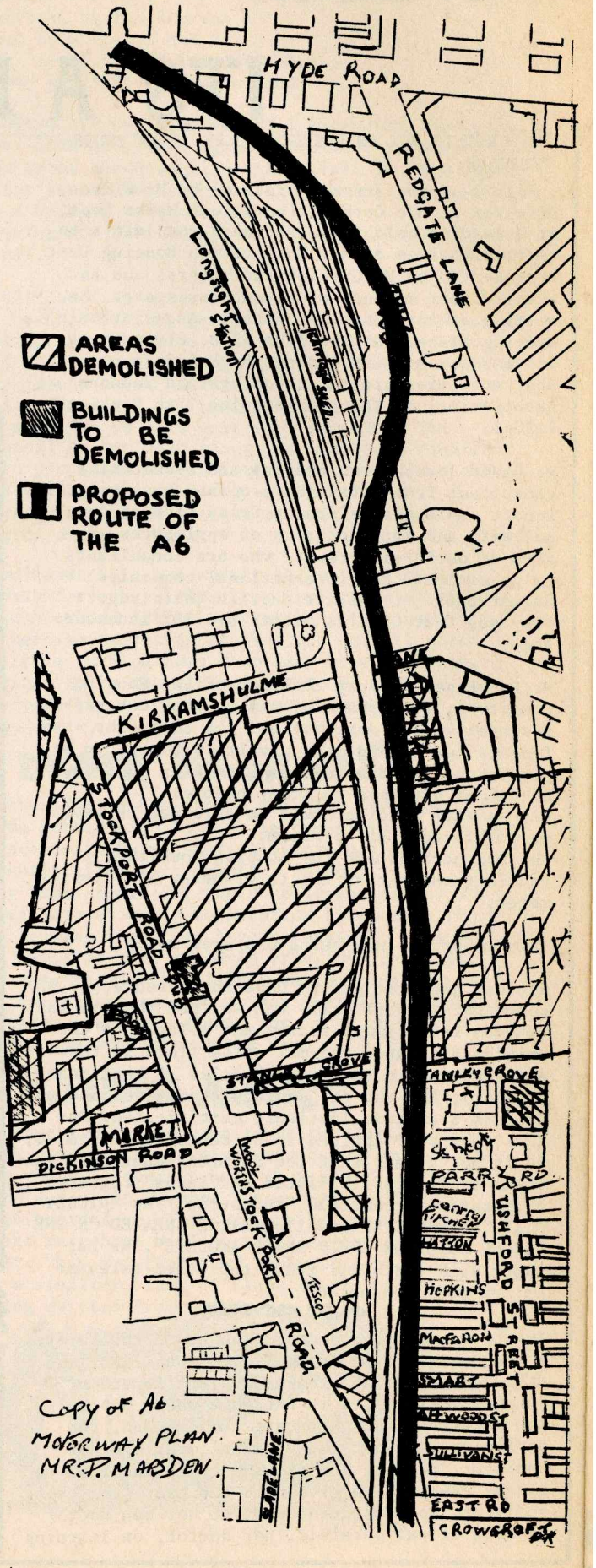
A large number of people living in the area that will be affected do not see the sense in building the A6 for 2 reasons. (1) Why spend all that money on a motorway when it could be spent on improving houses instead of knocking them down, and money spent on recreation areas to keep children safe. (2) Why spend the money at all when the government is saying Raise the price of food and rents and taxes, because of the amount of money being spent on roads and houses.

But other peoples voices are too small for their ears, to them (GMC) they have a job to do and that is to spend our money instead of saving it and putting it to a better use, like something we the ratepayers need. Who needs a new motorway? This is Manchester they are destroying, who wants to live in a concrete jungle?

But other people say they want the new road building because it will make a safer and more pleasant environment taking the traffic off Stockport Rd and all the side streets. Also Stanley Grove school will get its new building. Then there will be the new districy centre, the new road, and the new school, and all this developement would help employment. Stop shouting and listen to the future.

P. Marsden





Copy of A6 Motorway Plan. MR. P. MARSDEN.

A MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN HALL

For your convenience, the City of Manchester has set up area teams to deal with all housing improvement matters. Long bus journeys to the Town Hall will no longer be necessary and the Local Authority is now as near as your local area office.

The office for the Longsight and Levenshulme parts of the City, with operating boundaries of Hyde Rd in the north and Upper Brook St/ Anson Rd/Birchfields Rd to the west and south, will be initially at 40 Duncan Rd, Longsight, where the Area Team, headed by Mike Illidge as Area Co-ordinator will be based and will be only too pleased to help you with any doubts or problems you may have.

As many of you will already know, an area of Longsight has recently been declared as the Slade Lane/Slade Grove Housing Action Area. Within this area the Area Team's aims and intentions are to ensure that all property that can be reasonably saved and improved shall be. Grants at a high level are available for this purpose and full details of these and of the standards that are required to be attained, as well as of the help and advice that can be given, can be obtained from the Area Office.

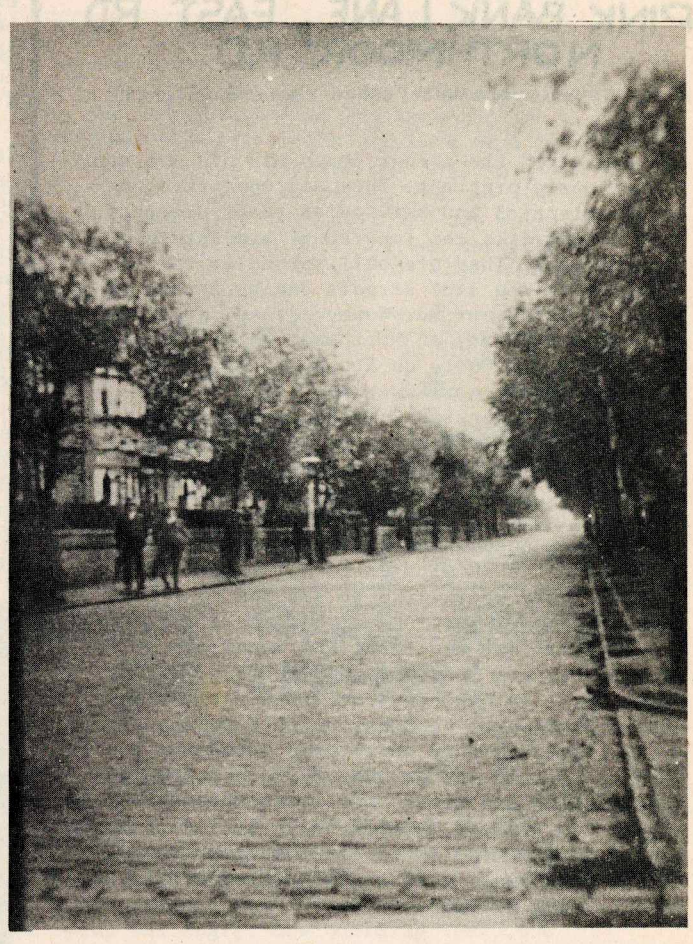
IF EVERYONE'S INTERESTED

Considerable interest has already been shown by Local residents in the possibilities of improvement and if this interest can be extended to all residents, then the task of improving the standards of housing and living conditions within this area will be made much easier and quicker.

The Area Team will be inspecting all houses within their sector of the City as part of an ongoing committment with a view to assessing priorities and taking improvement action in other parts of their sector. Other Housing Action Areas or General Improvement Areas will be declared in the future. If your house is not in the already declared area this does not mean that it is scheduled for demolition, and if you have any fears on this score or would like advice on the possibilities of grant-aided improvement to properties not included in declared areas, you are recommended to discuss the matter with your Area Team.

Those of you who own property within the declared Housing Action Area are strongly urged to get in touch, if you have not done so already, with the Area Team to discuss with them the possibilities of improvement to your property and the financial and technical assistance that is available.

WHERE IS IT?



Do you recognize this old photograph, taken in 1903?Turn to back page for answer. Please send in your letters with memories from those days.

If you are unable to visit the Area Office during normal working hours, a telephone call or a card through the letter box will receive the team's early attention.

City of Manchester Housing Improvement Programme
AREA OFFICE

40 Duncan Rd Longsight	Telephone 225 5433
Area Co-ordinator	P M Illidge
Area Surveyor	T Blenkinson
Receptionist	Mrs L Anderson
Improvement Officers	A S Cooper, W R Couse, & D Grifffin
Opening hours Mon to Fri	9.00am - 12.30pm 1.15pm - 4.30pm

WHERE SHOULD THE SHOPS GO?

People have been out into different corners of Longsight asking shoppers what shops they need.

PINK BANK LANE, EAST RD NORTHMOOR RD

About 40 shoppers were asked their opinions:

THE OAPs
All preferred the corner shops and did not want the proposed precinct. They all specified personal attention and service as their priority. They didn't like the impersonal atmosphere of Supermarkets. They are well served by the corner shops in the side streets and by 2 rows of shops in Northmoor Rd. However they desperately need a chemists on Northmoor Rd as the nearest one is now Boots on Stockport Rd. Also mentioned by most people was the lack of a Wet Fish Shop in Longsight. The more energetic usually walk to Levenshulme (past Lennons Supermarket) for fish. They know there is a fish stall on Longsight market but of course this is only available on Market Days and there is always a long queue; they cannot stand in the open for up to 20 minutes in all kinds of weather. They would like to see the replacement of some of the traditional shops on Stockport Rd but feel that the Shopping Precinct is not necessary and too big for the area. One lady OAP now travels to Marple (by Public Transport - concessionary fare) to a specialist shoe shop which used to be in Moseley St, Manchester. She needs an extra wide fitting and finds that local shoe shops try to fob her off by offering half a size larger to give the extra width whereas the Marple shop-owner always gives an expert shoe-fitting service.

Comment: Corner shops provide a social need particularly for the elderly. Some people may say they are "gossip shops" but at least an elderly person would be missed if they weren't seen as usual and somebody would investigate. In this sense local shops are an essential part of the community.

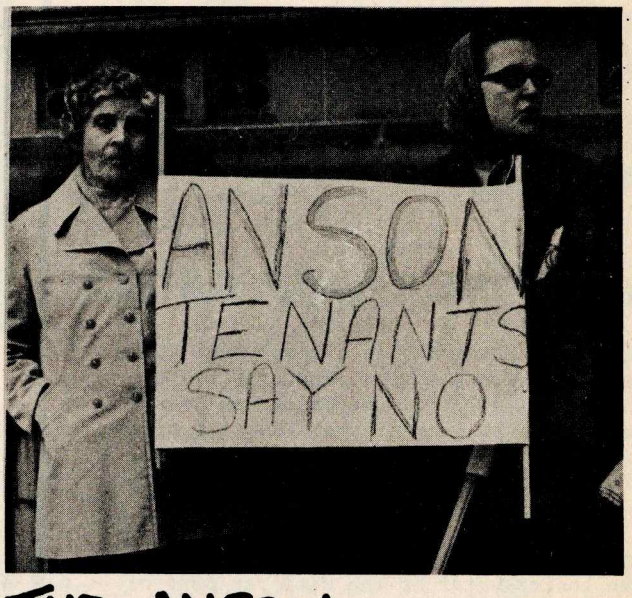
MIDDLE AGED PEOPLE
This group tend to think the corner shops are too expensive and will walk further to the Supermarkets in Longsight and Levenshulme. They will shop around more for bargains. Again the cry was for a chemists on Northmoor Rd and the replacement of specialist shops on Stockport Rd ie. Wet Fish Shops, Watch and Clock repairers, Ironmongers, Trimmings shop. etc. People of this age group who have cars tend to go out of the area once a week to Discount Stores ie Kwiksave at Ardwick or Heaton Norris.

MOTHERS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN
Think the proposed developement is too big and would be a 'white elephant'. They use the shops on Northmoor Rd and walk to Stockport Rd 2 or 3 times a week. They point out that we are already well served for food shops with 4 supermarkets, Woolworths, Open Market and small independents. Again they stressed the need for the specialist shops to be replaced on Stockport Rd, plus perhaps another Greengrocers. They think that shop units in a big new Developement will be expensive to rent and therefore the goods will be more expensive. They buy cheaper items of childrens clothes on the market in Longsight but for quality they prefer Mothercare, Marks & Spencers etc in Manchester and Stockport.

Comment: This area, in common with the rest of Longsight, comprises a lot of low-income households who live from week to week. Small corner shopkeepers will give credit to regular customers but you cannot go into Tesco or Madsega on a Thursday and ask for a loaf and a pot of jam on 'tick' until payday on Friday.

Traffic problems in the area were mentioned by OAPs and mothers with young children.

Another survey of 19 shoppers was done in the Pink Bank Lane area. Almost everyone wanted a chemists, chippy and more specialized shops. Strong support also for an off-licence, butchers and ladies/gents hairdressers. Only 3 people wanted large supermarkets.



THE ANSON

140 shoppers were interviewed on the Anson and asked what shops they needed most. The older people preferred smaller, family-type shops. Supermarkets confused them. Younger people favoured supermarkets and cash-and-carry type. There was a tremendous demand all round for a chemists shop on the estate (93 people asked for it). 78 asked for smaller specialized shops of the type gone off Stockport Rd. 44 people wanted a drapers, 35 a shoe shop, 35 a barbers. 69 wanted large supermarkets. At most one quarter of the people on the Anson own cars.

THE NEW ESTATE, and HAMILTON RD
For their views turn to P.

A DISTRICT CENTRE

Full of chain stores selling food, clothing and footwear. Few co-operative and independent shops are found. And there is not the variety and interest of the older high streets, like Stockport Rd used to be. So says a report in the "Estates Gazette". A district centre wouldn't bring back the service and the variety of the old shops, because the rents would be too high (£30, £40, £50, £60 a week plus rates) - too high for the smaller specialized shops to manage. Bergers, Radivans, Cales, Walkers, Kenyons, Furlongs, Leighs, Piprani's, Keoghs, Rowlands, Fosters and the others have gone and would be most unlikely to reappear in a new shopping centre.

SOME PEOPLE WANT IT

Some residents argue in favour of a district centre. Some have said that

a) we musn't complain, this is the most attention that has been paid to Longsight in years

b) if we don't accept the district centre we won't get anything else

c) it will provide jobs, building and running it

d) it would draw new shops to the area

A member of the District Centre Group replies: "Longsight is getting attention but we can't just take whatever is dished out, we don't want an empty office block or a Moss Side Centre. Residents must put forward what they want. Building it would give jobs, but we don't want our houses pulled down just to give jobs to demolition workers.
A plan could be made to bring Stockport Rd back to life without the bad affects of a district centre".

AT THE PUBLIC MEETING

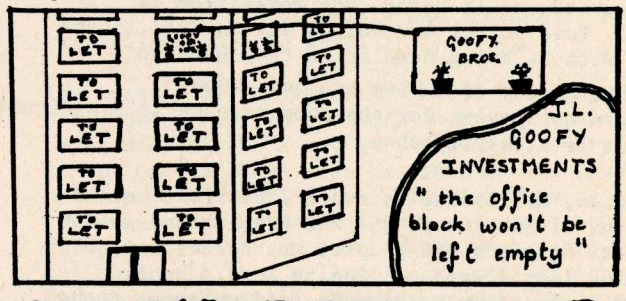
When residents asked for the figures on which the Town Hall based their confidence for such a big Centre, J B Eaton, City Estates Dept said "We feel it is right, the developer feels it is right. Any developer putting £3½ million at risk is not going to build something he thinks will be half empty".

The residents shouted "Remember Centre Point" and "Manchester is full of empty office blocks."

Mr Eaton says the Town Hall feels it is right for Longsight. He lives in Bramhall. The City Planner, Brian Parnell who also said the District Centre was what Longsight needed lives in Rochdale.
But a woman from Hathersage Road said: "You took a good row of shops down there. Old people and people with children cart all the way up here to Dickenson Rd or all the way to Wilmslow Rd. We haven't even got a bus that goes along Hathersage Rd to transport them backwards & forwards. CAN'T WE HAVE SOME SHOPS DOWN THERE!" (Cheers and claps).

SHADY DEAL NO.1
THE CAR PARK

The Chief Planning Officer told the other councillors in September that the multi-storey car park would be built by the Council (the ratepayers) if "demand warrants it" ie. if the 3 flat car parks to be built can't take the traffic.
But here's what the architects said in a letter to the District Centre Group:
"When the Relief Road (up New Bank St) is undertaken a multi-storey car park will be built on the site reserved for this purpose."
So they think it will be built. What is the contract between the Town Hall and the developers? Why will the Town Hall not let the Public know? One estimate of cost of the car-park is £1 million!



SHADY DEAL NO.2
THE LEAFLETS

The District Centre Group wrote to the councillors and asked that residents be consulted before permission to build was given. This the councillors agreed to. But the group didn't realise that the Corporation meant by this a leaflet and a public meeting to be held within a month. Despite the group being willing to hold their own meeting the Corporation rushed ahead. The Group was angry: how could up to 20,000 people be consulted in one month ? how could they find out what was going on ? The group asked the Town Hall for paper to print leaflets and this was refused.

The Town Hall said they were printing 10,000 leaflets themselves, so the group raised money and printed 9,000 leaflets of their own.
They were willing also to give the Town Hall leaflet out. With only 6 days to go the Town Hall gave 2,500 leaflets to the group. They then said no more were being printed and they went back on their promise also to send 3 people out to help give them out. The group contacted the Evening News and the Town Hall obviously fearing publicity sent 2,000 more. But the Corporation didn't try to publicise the meeting apart from an ad in the Public Notices column which common folk don't read! Malcolm Woods a senior planner at the Town Hall told the group "This meeting is not an exercise in public participation. We were only instructed to seek the views of residents. There can be no fundamental changes to the scheme coming from the meeting".
There were so few Town Hall leaflets and the Group was so messed around by the Corporation that on the new estate only one house per block got a Town Hall leaflet. But every house there got one of the Group's leaflets.

The Corporation had the chance to give the public a part in the decision. Instead they deliberately withheld leaflets of information.

SPASTICS SHOP

How many people know or understand what goes into the running of a spastics shop? Well I went to see the one that has opened on Stockport Rd, next to Barclys Bank, corner of Stanley Grove, and spoke to the lady running the shop, a Mrs Barnes who told me she once worked on a flea market, and met a Mr Warring, one of the managers of some spastics shops, who asked her if she would like to help and she agreed and they got in touch with M/c Corporation and the brewery of the pub next door for permission to open that shop. They agreed, so it began. She works from 10 till 3, Tues to Fri and half a day on Sat, in the shop. With it being demolition they have no heating, no way of making tea and no wc. They are not paying for the shop because as Mrs Barnes said it is a charity shop.

Work wise, Mrs Barnes is run off her feet because when she finishes work she and her husband go out collecting goods off people. Mrs Barnes is a very charming lady always willing to lend a hand. When I spoke to Mr Warring he told me some of the things they do with the money they collect.

They have 2 caravans at the Robin Hood Bay Camp in Blackpool and are hoping to get 1 more for spastic people to spend a holiday in; also they have taken some spastic people to a hotel in Southport, and apart from that they deal with rehousing families of spastics.
There are many more things, like medical attention, running homes etc. So if ever you go in to the shop in Longsight remember all the hard work Mrs Barnes and her husband do, and also many more like her.

Peter Marsden

The Anson Tenants Residents Association continue to meet the first Monday in every month, still with not very much support, last month's turn-out was the best for a while with 45 in attendance. At the November meeting we are having a make-up demonstration and a jewellery party, we hope that this little entertainment will appeal to a few more tenants and enable them to do something different.

At this point we would like to give a word of warning!! Where would you report a gas leak? I bet 9 out of 10 said The gas board. Not so, if you are a Manchester Corporation tenant. I fell into this trap recently and the lady concerned received a bill for £2.70 for less than 5 mins work (no work actually, just a test!!) It seems that under the direct works you now have a special gas and oil dept since we have all been converted to gas central heating, so think twice if you smell gas and get the direct works not North West Gas Board or it will cost you!

At the public meeting on Oct 8th about the proposed District Centre I was most disgusted to note there were four out of 1000 houses represented. Whats the matter with the Anson Estate? Doesnt anybody care about the future? Its no use grumbling and closing the stable door after the horse has gone, its too late then. Its about time we all bucked our ideas up and let the council see that we are people to be reckoned with, and asked what we want NOT TOLD WHAT WE ARE GOING TO GET!!

We, the people, put the councillors where they are and its about time we were treated as people and not puppets, to dance when the strings are pulled.

If anybody would like any information about the new mobility allowance, I have a few leaflets and application forms. Please ring 225 9546 any time. This allowance starting January for those aged 15 to 50 is for people who are unable or virtually unable to walk.

The tenants of Stamford Rd/Bexhill Drive are still being kept in the dark about their homes being modernized. A petition signed by every tenant on the above area was sent to the town hall on 28.8.75. To date no acknowledgement or reply has been given, and they only want to know if they are being done or approx what date, so at the moment it is a will we/wont we situation. Nobody even knows if anybody has got the contract, but according to a Wimpey's foreman "We have lost them a big contract because we complained about bad work." But whoever has got the contract (if anyone!!) I wish the town hall would hurry up and make its mind up so that these tenants can do something with their homes and not be living on a tightrope.

Maureen Thierens

CONTINUED FROM P.6

WHERE SHOULD THE SHOPS GO?

NEW LONGSIGHT ESTATE

Tenants here are in bad need of shops. 2 issues ago Longsight News reported that Radivans greengrocers had closed down on Devonshire St. People are now walking nearly the full length of Plymouth Grove to the market for fruit and veg. That's only one example. The Tenants Association in a letter to the Town Hall puts the situation like this:

(1) The area on the railway side of Stockport Rd has been completed without any local shops. About 3500 people live in 915 houses in this area. We know that as an afterthought a shop is planned to be built next to the wash house in South St but we feel that one shop cannot possibly meet the needs of an area as large as this. Below is a list of sites which could be built on:
(a) the site of Ridings disused warehouse on South St
(b) the land next to the Daisy Works, used until recently as a Direct Works site
(c) land opposite and next to the Ducie Arms.
(2) There is a considerable distance to walk to the existing shops on Stockport Rd. The fact that most of us already shop there is only because your planning policy has forced us to. Most of us don't own cars in fact we estimate between 12 - 17% of tenants do. Can you imagine what its like for an old person or a parent with children walking down to the proposed District Centre along badly broken and pitted pavements and across dangerous roads? The recent increases in bus fares - 15p single from Devonshire St to DickensonRd - makes a pint of milk expensive, assuming that the shops are open in the evening which they are not.

We are NOT against more shops but we object strongly to the siting and size of the proposed development.

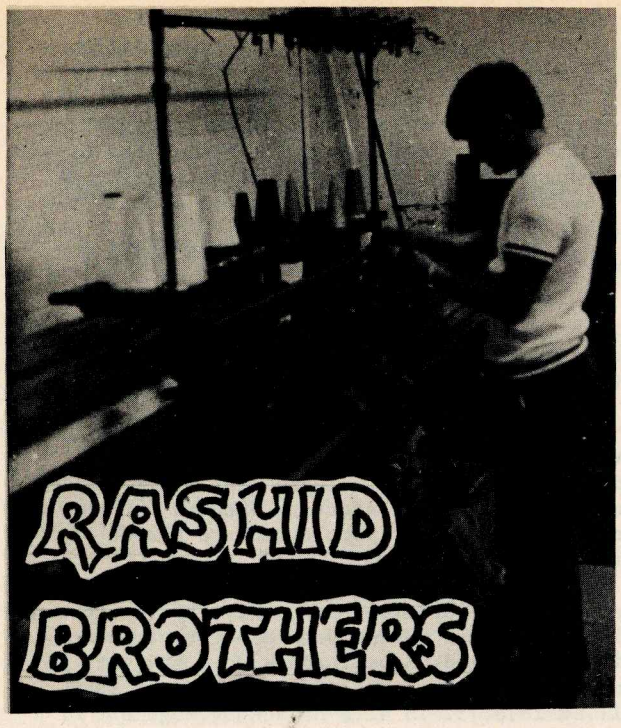
HAMILTON RD AREA

The area is quite well served by several corner shops and the rows of shops on Beresford Rd and Slade Lane. At most 10 minutes walk brings you to Stockport Rd and the market, when its open.

Younger women were satisfied with the present shops though a couple thought a District Centre would be OK, however they would prefer to have such things as a nursery for under-5s. A few women said if there were more shops they'd only spend more money which they couldn't afford.

The general impression was: when you first ask they say the shopping facilities are sufficient. But then they say there needs to be a replacement of shops like shoemenders, hardware, fish-shop on Stockport Rd. This was especially the view of middle-aged people.

Those who were in favour of a district centre had not considered such bad affects as traffic etc.



رشید برادران نٹ ویر کمپنی کی کامیابی کا راز طویل مدت کی سخت محنت کا صلہ ہے

Rashid came from the Punjab in 1968. He went to school in Glasgow for a while until his father got seriously ill and Rashid had to go out to work. He failed through lack of O-levels to get a TV-apprenticeship and started to work for a grocer.

In 1971 his family moved to Manchester and Rashid went to work for a textile manufacturer. He liked it and thought he'd learn the trade. He got a half-share in a hand-driven knitting machine and set it up at his house in Hamilton Rd. At first it was a hobby for him, then he thought he'd chance supporting his family by it. For nearly a year and a half he drove the knitting-head back and forth, competing with traders who had electric machines. In time he bought up the other person's share and started a stall on Longsight market. With 2 brothers he formed RB (Rashid Brothers) Knitting Company. The constant labour of the machine built up his muscles and made him accept hard work, long hours, and the need for self-reliance. He taught himself to overhaul the machine and do overlocking; and he learned by trial and error the whole job of trading and managing money.

7 DAYS A WEEK

He was working from 8 or 9 in the morning to 8, 9, or 10 at night, six and seven days a week. Sometimes he'd buy finished articles from other manufacturers and with some of his own clothes drive to Glasgow on Saturday evening to supply his brother who ran a stall there 4 days a week. He remembers the long drives through the night, the cups of tea at the services and snatching sleep in the van. In the morning he'd start on Glasgow market himself. That was 1974.

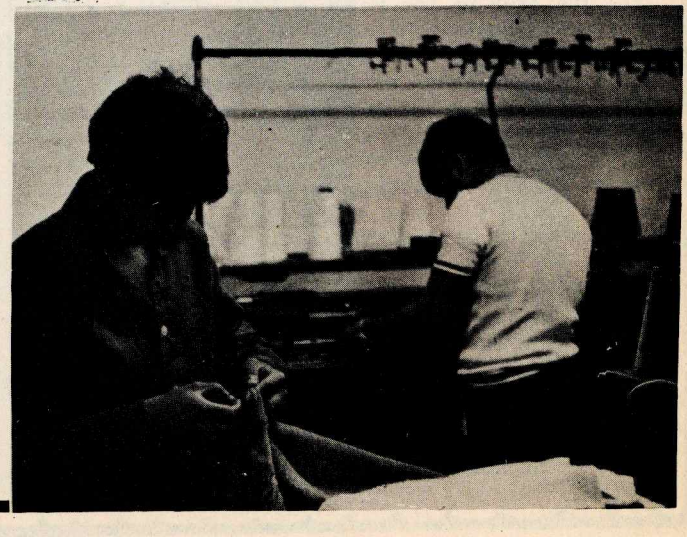
This year he got a room in an old mill in Ancoats He and his brother now ran 5 electric knitting machines (photo). The hand machine from his Hamilton Rd days stood idle in a corner. Even the electric machines were over 25, maybe 50, years old. They frequently went wrong.

Rashid repaired them as best he could and when he couldn't, brought in a mechanic. The over-locking and hemming he did some of, and some he gave to a woman. The brothers were still working long hours in this 'factory' or on the markets; still doing 6 or 7 days a week. Why did he want to start a business?

Rashid: "I want to show them that I can run a business."
M Brennan: "Who?"
- "Some of my own people"
- "Your family?"
- "No, some of those who laugh at you." He went on "It's better to work for yourself. I don't want my brother to work for someone else, he's OK with me. When you work for someone else there's always a manager or a boss coming round ordering you. But I will have to employ 2 or 3 people in a year's time."

MB: "Won't it be bad for them to have to work for you - they won't be their own boss"
Rashid: "I have to think of my family and myself. I will not bleed those who work for me. I'm not that sort. What am I to do when my business is building up except employ people to make it work? If I build up a factory I do not divide it in 2 and give half the machines to someone else and say, Now you start a new factory beside me. That's not natural."

- "How about sharing the factory with all the other workers. No-one would be able to hire or fire but you'd have meetings to decide on things. Like a co-operative?"
- "Not for now because we do most of the hard work and don't employ anyone except for some overlocking and hemming. In the future it's a possibility. At present we are not making money, we may be making a loss. I take no wages, neither does my brother. No drinking or dancing. We try to support our family and the rest goes to keeping these machines going, petrol, buying thread, etc."



"We sell on the market strictly for cash We must have cash to keep going. If we sold to a wholesaler they might not pay you for weeks and then only for those goods they'd sold. Everyone like us on the market needs the cash. Anyway, unless you succeed on the market you'll never get a business going. I like the market too, it's good to meet people."

- "Why are traders from Pakistan and India able to sell clothes so cheaply?"
- "Because they work hard and sell their own. So what they sell for £1 or £1.15 would cost £1.40 in a warehouse and £2.00 in a store."
- "Is it because of your Muslim religion that you work hard?"
- "No, nothing in religion about hard work. About not stealing, yes. And religion says you should pray 5 times a day."
- "Do you?" - "No"
- "How well off would your family be in Pakistan now?'
- "I think it would be the same as here. We are all right here and the way it's going we're happy."
- "Have you got time to make friends?"
- "No, you don't 'make' friends, that's one thing. They become your friends."
- "Do you think it matters if people from different countries like Pakistan, Ireland, West Indies, England, have much contact with each other, say in a place like Longsight?"
- "No, it doesn't. As long as they like you, you like them, never mind what colour, black, white, navy. I think they're happy here with each other. On the motorways if we see a market trader pulled up we always see if he's all right or in trouble..."

- "You don't have time for making friends or dancing. Will you marry? "
- "Yes, my parents will choose a wife for me."
- "Do you agree with that?"
- "Yes I think they have experience of life. I trust them."
- "Do you like the radio,"
- "Yes, some programmes in Punjabi, some in English. Music? I like the Top Twenty. What was the song a couple of years ago..."They paved paradise, put up a parking lot..."
- "Big Yellow Taxi"
- "Yes, I like that."
- "How old are you?"
- "If I tell you will you believe me? I'm 19."

The Free School

Manchester Free School has recently moved to 24 Duncan Rd, a house due for demolition. The school is in need of a permanent place to settle.
What is a free school ?

A free school is based on a bond of friendship: helpers and children are friends first. Between us we try to create an informal atmosphere in which learning becomes a pleasure and not a chore.

Except for maths and english we do no particular subjects but whatever comes out of personal interest or every-day experience. People learn more when they enjoy what they are doing and it has to do with what they need.

The children have to think about what they want to do, they have to learn things for themselves and so gain in self-confidence and self-respect.

They make their own decisions about when and how to work, with assistance if they want it, because this is what they will have to do when they leave.

Instead of being spoon-fed education we try to feed ourselves.

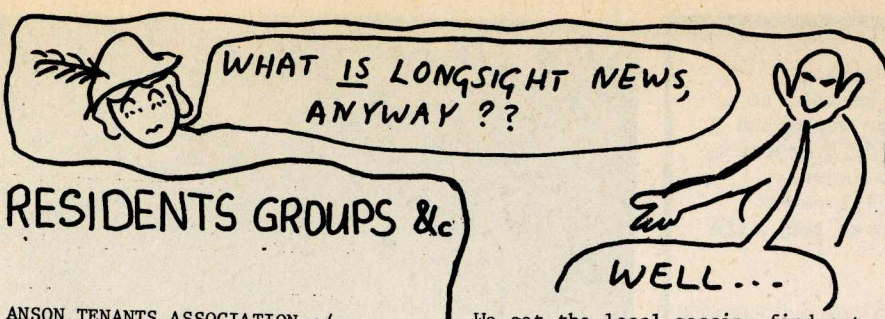
We all share in the running of the school on an equal basis. Everyone is part of the school and is affected by what happens and so deserves an equal share in deciding what is to happen.

The School Meeting

On Monday after dinner we have a meeting about what we are going to do all the week. We all decide to go roller skating on Tuesday and on Wednesday we decided to go to the Art Centre and we all decided to go swimming on Thursday.

While we have been at number 24 Duncan Rd we have decorated three rooms and we have painted the step pink and the concrete pink as you all might notice when you walk by. Since we have been in this house 6 new people have been here. In one of the rooms we have a list about who is going to do the dinner and who is going to wash up. We all have two jobs each, one washing and one cooking.
Three people cook a day and three people wash a day. We have also decided that it would be good to have a time when anyone wishing to see the school could do so. If you are interested the next time will be Monday 17 November after 2pm.

-by 2 members of the school



We get the local gossip, find out what's true and what's false and let the people of Longsight know the truth.

We're expressing the views of the ordinary people of Longsight - views that wouldn't be reported truthfully by the commercial papers.

Too many individuals and community groups take part in producing the paper for us to give all the names. Stories that just give facts are not signed. But stories that give the writers personal opinions are signed or initialled.

Please call at 113 Hamilton Rd or drop us a line if you would like to help in any way - ideas for news items, writing, drawing, typing and designing the paper, selling on your street or selling at work.

Our next meeting, to discuss ideas for the Jan-Feb edition is at 113 Hamilton Rd on
WED 26th NOVEMBER 7.30pm

RESIDENTS GROUPS &c

ANSON TENANTS ASSOCIATION c/o M Thierens 26 Elsdon Ave 225 9546

BIRCH LANE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION c/o A. Barnaby 72 Birch Lane 225 225 9287. For all streets between St Johns Rd and Laindon Rd

MELDRETH DRIVE RESIDENTS c/o J M Jim Mortimer 10 Meldreth Drive 224 7186

LONGSIGHT TENANTS ASSOC (New estate) Dave Shaw 4 Mull Ave

LONGSIGHT LIBRARY CHILDRENS GROUP, Pat Coleman, Longsight Library.

LONGSIGHT ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, Anne Porter 26 Lucien Close &

"CENTRAL" WOMENS GROUP, Jill Woodward 4 Leedale St, Levenshulme.

HAMILTON RD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE. Advice office open 10 - 12.30 Mon Wed & Fri and 3 - 8 Tues & Thurs. Also good furniture & clothes. Rooms available for meetings. 113 Hamilton Rd 248 6640

SOUTH MANCHESTER SOCIETY FOR MENTALLY JANDICAPPED CHILDREN, L Fairley 28 Willesden Ave 224 3502

LONGSIGHT AND MOSS SIDE COMMUNITY PROJECT. Help & advice for people from India & Pakistan 4a Anson Rd, church buildings 225 8583

WEST INDIAN ADVICE OFFICE, Stamford Rd. Run by West Indians, open to all.

AD: LIGHT REMOVALS, REASONABLE RATES. PHONE 224 0536.

ADVERTISEMENTS

LONGSIGHT TENANTS ASSOCIATION

JUMBLE SALE & XMAS FAIR
Saturday 29th Nov 2.30
Longsight Methodist Church Hall, next to Daisy Works, Stockport Rd.
Admission 3p. Refreshments available.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

November 18th 7.30 pm
at Crowcroft Park Day Nursery (in the park).
In aid of toys for the children.
Admission 15p - coffee and biscuits included.
Please bring any articles for sale to the nursery.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE can be had at the Neighbour hood Centre, 113 Hamilton Rd TUESDAYS 7 - 8pm.

Help give a little sunshine and happiness by bringing the things you do not need to
THE SPASTICS SHOP
STOCKPORT RD
LONGSIGHT
Gifts gratefully received.

NOW OPEN
SUN HOW CHOP SUEY BAR
corner of Patey St, Longsight
ALSO FISH & CHIPS, PIES, CHICKEN, CURRY TO TAKE AWAY.

ADVERTISING IS FREE

HAVE LONGSIGHT NEWS DELIVERED REGULARLY 20p for 5 issues
Fill in coupon and return with 20p to Longsight News, 113 Hamilton Road.

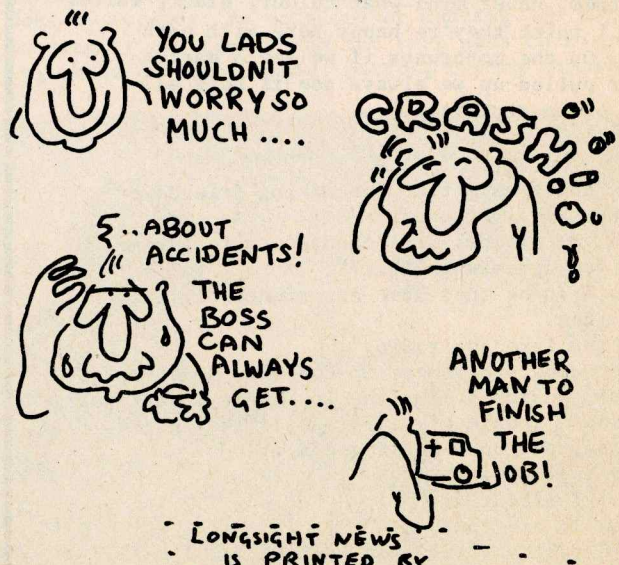
Name .....
Address .....
.....

A PLACE TO PLAY?

A group of parents and children in the Slade Grove/Palm St area have been getting together to discuss the need for somewhere for local kids to go after school. The nights are cutting in and its getting to the time when parents don't want their kids out on the streets when they finish school. Most of the provision for kids round here eg. Stanley Grove playcentre and the Longsight Adventure playground are too far away. Some local people have begun a survey of the people in the area to find out if they think its a good idea for there to be somewhere really near at hand for their kids to go. They also want to find out how many people would be interested in helping or can offer toys, games or equipment that might be useful.

There will be a meeting on Fri 14th Nov at 3.00 at 113 Hamilton Rd for all those interested.

DOPEY DAN THE FOREMAN



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